



Census of Agriculture

Highlights

The following statistics are from the 2006 Census of Agriculture, which took place on May 16, 2006.

- There were **148 farms reported** in the Yukon, a decrease of 22 farms from the 2001 Census.
- These 148 farms **covered a total of 25,020 acres**, a decrease of 14.7% from 29,318 reported acres of total farm area in 2001.
- In 2005, **total gross farm receipts totalled \$4,080,385**, a decrease of \$114,479, or 2.7%, from \$4,194,864 in 2000.

About the Census of Agriculture

The British North America (BNA) Act of 1867 determined that a census would be taken every 10 years starting in 1871. However, rapid expansion in western Canada at the turn of the last century made a more frequent census necessary. Starting in 1896, a separate Census of Agriculture was taken every five years in Manitoba, and in Alberta and Saskatchewan beginning in 1906. By 1956, rapid economic growth and development created the need for both national demographic and agricultural information at more frequent intervals.

In 1956, the five-year Census of Agriculture was extended to the entire country, and the Census of Population became a regular enumeration every five years. That year the two started a long tradition of being conducted concurrently.

Number of Yukon Farms, by Type

	2001	2006
Cattle ranching and farming	2	2
Hog and pig farming	1	2
Poultry and egg production	14	10
Sheep and goat farming	0	1
Other animal production	65	44
Oilseed and grain farming	5	5
Vegetable and melon farming	7	12
Fruit and tree-nut farming	3	4
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	22	22
Other crop farming	51	46
Total farms	170	148

Total Farm Area

	1991	1996	2001	2006
Under 10 acres	17	31	29	28
10 to 69 acres	47	54	57	50
70 to 129 acres	33*	19	14	20
130 to 179 acres	33*	22	24	18
180 to 239 acres	33*	8	12	7
240 to 399 acres	5	14	14	10
400 to 559 acres	4	6	11	5
560 to 759 acres	2	1	3	3
760 to 1,119 acres	1	2	2	2
1,120 to 1,599 acres	1	1	2	3
1,600 to 2,239 acres	3	1	1	1
2,240 to 2,879 acres	0	1	1	1
2,880 to 3,519 acres	0	0	0	0
3, 520 acres and over	0	0	0	0
Total farms	113	150	170	148

*In the 1991 Census, the 70 to 239 acre area was one category, but was expanded into the three shown for the 1996 and subsequent Censuses.

- In 2006, there were 148 farms in the Yukon, a decrease of 22 farms from 2001, when 170 farms were reported. Also, Yukon farmers reported 25,020 acres of total farm area, a decrease of 14.7% from 29,318 reported acres of total farm area in 2001.

- There was an increase in the number of Yukon farms reporting higher capital value in 2006. In 2001 none of the 170 farms reported capital value over \$1.5 million, while in 2006 eight of the 148 farms reported capital value in excess of \$1.5 million.

- Total Yukon gross farm receipts for 2005 were \$4,080,385, which is a decrease of \$114,479, or 2.7%, from \$4,194,864 in 2000.

Total Farm Area, by Tenure, 2006

	# Reporting	Acres
Area owned	145	17,313
Area leased from governments	14	7,002
Area rented or leased from others	7	381
Area crop-shared from others	2	x
Other areas used through other arrangements	2	x
Total farm area	148	25,020

Total gross farm receipts, 2000 and 2005

	2000	2005
Under \$10,000	108	86
\$10,000 to \$24,999	22	32
\$25,000 to \$49,999	21	10
\$50,000 to \$99,999	9	11
\$100,000 to \$249,999	8	6
\$250,000 to \$499,999	1	2
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	1
\$1,000,000 and over	0	0
Total number of farms	170	148

Total Farm Area, by Land Use

	-----2001-----		-----2006-----	
	# Reporting	Acres	# Reporting	Acres
Land in crops (excluding Christmas tree area)	108	7,015	101	6,567
Summerfallow land	11	525	11	508
Tame or seeded pasture	24	940	32	1,760
Natural land for pasture	55	10,391	43	7,163
All other land (including Christmas tree area, woodlands and wetlands)	160	10,447	137	9,022
Christmas tree area, woodlands and wetlands ¹	..	..	61	5,947
All other land ¹	..	..	122	3,075
Total farm area	170	29,318	148	25,020

¹New for 2006, therefore comparison with 2001 is not possible.

Highlights of Crops, 2006 Census

	-----2001-----		----- 2006 -----	
	# Reporting	Acres	# Reporting	Acres
Hay and Field Crops				
Oats	30	1,293	25	1,372
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures	13	637	14	1,063
Other tame hay and fodder crops	62	4,686	52	3,692
Potatoes	13	30	12	59
Vegetables (Excluding Greenhouse)				
Total vegetables	18	24	25	37
Fruits, Berries and Nuts				
Total fruits, berries and nuts	10	11	10	24
Nursery Products				
Total nursery products	7	9	7	12
Greenhouse Products				
	# Reporting	Square feet	# Reporting	Square feet
Total greenhouse area in use on census day	29	53,700	30	53,145
Greenhouse flowers	22	30,850	12	28,875
Greenhouse vegetables	21	20,916	21	22,844
Other greenhouse products ¹			6	1,696

¹Since the components of 'other' categories vary from census to census, no comparable data are available.

- The majority of farms in the 'hay and field crops' category produced 'other tame hay and fodder crops'. There were ten fewer farms in this category in 2006 in comparison to 2001, and 994 fewer acres.
- While the total numbers of greenhouses in the Yukon has remained stable between 2001 and 2006, there was a decrease of 10 greenhouses that reported using the greenhouse for flowers on census day.

Highlights of Livestock, 2006 Census

	-----2001-----		----- 2006 -----	
	# Reporting	# Reported	# Reporting	# Reported
Total cattle and calves	11	192	10	220
Total pigs	11	73	7	160
Total sheep and lambs	3	x	2	x
Total hens and chickens	35	9,319	29	6,301
Horses and ponies	79	818	58	629
Goats	6	36	7	113
Wild boars	3	13	0	0
Bison (buffalo)	2	x	1	x
Llamas and alpacas	4	22	5	21
Deer (excluding wild deer)	1	x	0	0
Elk	6	129	4	74
Honeybees ¹	..	..	3	x

¹New for 2006; therefore comparison with 2001 is not possible.

Soil conservation practices and land features

	1991	1996	2001	2006
Crop rotation	27	35	34	39
Winter cover crops	10	9	4	11
Plowing down green crops ¹	5*	0	20	24
Rotational grazing ²	-	-	-	24
Windbreaks or shelterbelts ¹	13	32	30	66
Buffer zones around water bodies ²	-	-	-	41
Total farms	113	160	170	148

*The 1991 Census combined 'Permanent grass cover', 'Green manure crops for plough-down', and 'Mechanical/hand weeding' as one method.

¹Due to wording changes in the census question, 2006 data are not comparable with previous censuses.

²This category is new for 2006.

Irrigation and land inputs for calendar year prior to the census

		1990	1995	2000	2005
Irrigation	Farms reporting	27	46	47	33
	Acres	420	980	1,395	1,851
Herbicides	Farms reporting	3	4	11	19
	Acres	41	87	632	888
Insecticides	Farms reporting	1*	1*	2	2
	Acres	x*	x*	x	x
Fungicides	Farms reporting	1*	1*	1	2
	Acres	x*	x*	x	x
Commercial fertilizer	Farms reporting	38	62	55	30
	Acres	1,795	3,072	3,976	2,848
Lime ¹	Farms reporting	-	-	-	1
	Acres	-	-	-	x

*The 1991 and 1996 Censuses combined insecticides and Fungicides as one method for land inputs.

¹The 'Lime' category is new for 2006.

Organic Products

While there were only two farms in 2006 producing certified organic products (up from zero in 2001), there were 26 farms that reported producing some type of organic product: certified (2), transitional (2), or uncertified (22).

Ten farms produced a type of organic hay or field crops, 15 farms produced organic fruits, vegetables or greenhouse products, 9 farms produced organic animal or animal products, and 6 farms produced other organic products (note: the total number of farms reporting does not equal the sum of the parts because a farm could report more than one category).

Characteristics of farm operators, 2006

	2001	2006
# Farms with one operator	80	80
# Farms with 2+ operators	90	65
Total number of operators ¹	265	215
# Male operators	160	125
# Female operators	105	90
# Operators under age 35	15	15
# Operators age 35-54	185	125
# Operators age 55+	65	75
Average age of operators	50	51

¹Up to three operators can be reported per farm. This is a count of distinct operators; hence, operators of two or more separate farms are included only once in the total.

Additional Notes:

Since 1991, the definition of an agricultural operation for the Yukon and Northwest Territories has included: herding wild animals (such as caribou, muskox, etc.), breeding sled dogs, horse outfitting and rigging, and harvesting indigenous plants and berries. (While the the Census of Agriculture does include Nunavut, no farms were identified in Nunavut in 2001 or 2006).

Information Sheet #C06-03
December, 2007

